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CLAIMS

- A method of treating hair comprising the step of applying to the hair a leave on hair treatment composition comprising:
 - i) citric acid, tartaric acid, their salts or mixtures thereof; and
- ii) a xanthine, substituted xanthine or mixtures
 thereof, wherein the ratio of i) to ii) is from 1:0.01
 to 0.01:1.
 - 2. A method according to claim 1 in which the xanthine substituted xanthine ii) of the hair treatment composition has the following formula:

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in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_5 alkyl groups, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_5 alkenyl groups, aryl groups, arylalkyl groups or mixtures thereof,

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3. A method according to claim 2 in which R^1, R^2 and R^3 of the xanthine/substituted xanthine ii) are independently selected from H, C_1 - C_5 alkyl groups, C_2 - C_5 alkenyl or mixtures thereof.

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- 4. A method according to claim 3 in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 of ii) are independently selected from H, methyl groups or mixtures thereof.
- 5 5. A method according to any preceding claim in which the xanthine derivative ii) is caffeine.
- 6. A method according to any preceding claim in which the α -hydroxy acid and/or its salt if optically active is in the L-form.
 - 7. A method according to any preceding claim in which the total amount of acid/salt i) is from 0.1 to 20 wt% in the total formulation.

8. A method according to any preceding claim in which the total amount manthine ii) is from 0.1 to 20 wt% in the

total formulation.

- 20 9. A method according to any preceding claim in which the hair treatment composition further comprises a surfactant.
- 10. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the 25 hair treatment composition further comprises a cationic, or silicone based conditioning agent.
- 11. A method according to any preceding claim in which the hair treatment composition further comprises a styling agent.



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- 12. A method according to any preceding claim in which the hair treatment composition comprises an aqueous base.
- 13. Use of a composition as described in any precedingclaim for styling the hair.
- 14. Use of i) an α-hydroxy acid, its salts or mixture therefor; and ii) a xanthine, substituted xanthine or mixtures thereof for lengthening hair and or decreasing the volume of hair.
- 15. Use of a i) an α-hydroxy acid its salts or mixtures thereof; and ii) a xanthine, substituted xanthine or mixtures thereof for increasing the high humidity style retention of hair.